

From The Day I Was Inducted

Dec. 11.

I was inducted at the Armory in Baltimore and was given a very good reception by Col ----- and taken through by a very sociable Capt. ----- which all in all made it comparatively easy

Dec 12

After signing my name about one hundred times I was officially sworn into the Navy by Commander ----- at 12 O'clock noon and given my transportation to Davisville R. I. arriving in Providence that night and staying in Seekonk for the night.

Dec 13

I reported in at Davisville to Capt Rogers and also Met Comm. Hunter. Was assigned to the receiving center under a Lt. Hughes and then received my first three shots which to my surprise did not affect me. I was also outfitted the same day and received a overnight liberty reporting in the next morning at 7 O'clock which meant getting up at five A M.

Dec 14

Spent most of the day getting used to the Navy and was notified that I would leave the next day for California. Received another overnight liberty and reported back the next day at 4 O'clock.

Dec 15

Departed from the air station at Quonset at 11 o'clock arriving in New York at 12:30 A M. L

Dec 16

Departed from New York at 11 A M stopping in Willow Grove which is near Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Claithe which is near Kansas City and by the way the headquarters for the Nats.

Dec 17

Departed from Claithe 4:30 A M stopping in ^{Winslow} ~~Winslow~~ Arizona and arriving in Oakland Cal Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. It should be noted that the trip was made in a D C 3 such are used by the Commercial Airlines. The trip was very cold and the Red Cross Canteens which served free meals was very welcome and appreciated. Was given a ride into Oakland by a lieutenant and Hopped a bus for Camp Parks about thirty five miles distant. Arrived there at five o'clock and reported in at the receiving station assigned a bunk in barracks #61 and given a mattress and two blankets did not know what to do with them so waited until another Joe came in and then did the same as he. Went to chow and again followed the Joe in front of me after waiting in line for twenty five minutes but made out all right. That night went into the library and wrote a letter and retired about ten o'clock the time the lights went out.

Dec 18

Up at 5:30 went to chow and then returned to the barracks to answer muster which I did not know what it was all about but as before just followed the guy in front of me. After that was marched in a group of 100 to take a physical and made out all first rate. That same morning met Capt Wilson, Com Siedel, Yeoman Fitzpatrick and yeoman Pat Martin all good fellows. That night met Tom Mullen and Chief M Neil of Boston and went to Oakland on liberty and had a pretty good time. This was really my first full Navy day and experience in waiting in line for everything under the sun, Meals Cigarettes etc.

Dec. 19

Received another shot and was vaccinated by Dr. Weber (Captain) Spent a few hours with Tom Mullen that night and retired early.

Dec 20

Dec 20

Departed from Camp Parks at 11:30 A M and finally left Alemeida Airport that nite at 11:30 P M for Pearl Harbor on a PB 2 Y a four engined sea plane with five Army officers , it was noticed here that the enlisted man always comes last the highest ranking officer boards the plane first and gets the best seats. The trip was quite cold and no one very talkative.

Dec 21

Arrived in Pearl Harbor 1:30 P M after having steak and eggs for breakfast and a pretty smooth trip. Checked in at the receiving Station which was called AIEU. Called Jim O'Donnell and he in return called Broderick who is in a collared Battalion which was about to leave for the South Pacific Spent the Night with O'Donnell and had a very pleasant evening.

Dec 22

Had chow at 7 o'clock which was fair and then answered muster at 7:45 and was assigned to the work detail which consisted of sweeping out the barracks and then swabbing the deck. Checked out at 2 o'clock and went to the Air Station to await the plane. While waiting met Lt. John Shields who just arrived the week before as assistant personnel officer a job he did not like, however he secured a jeep and a pass for me and we went to Honolulu for Supper at Trader Vicks which is supposed to be quite a well known eating place we had a steak dinner for three bucks which stunk. The only drinks we could get was rum and gin We had two Singapore Slings which was the limit for each customer all places closed at five o'clock. Left there and returned to camp and left on a D R 5 which is a four motored cargo plane called by the Army C54 at 8:30 P M stopping at the Johnston Islands where we had something to eat and not bad, left there and stopped in Kwajalein which is a God forsaken place just a level island and nothing to see or do, left there and arrived in Guam on Dec 24 at 1:30 pm. losing a day because of the International Date line

Dec 24

Arrived at Guam at 1:30 pm. Taken to the Fifth Brigade Headquarters and met Comm Clark the Executive Officer and was assigned to a tent with the three other fellows one Don Fransisco from Cranston all pretty good fellows Trying to be non committal I finally found out from the office force that my mission was known because the letter to the Capt was opened by the clerks. Had chow which was fair however did not have to wait in line. It being Xmas Eve most every one was doing pretty good and having a good time on beer had a few with some of the fellows and went to midnite mass at the 515th CBs it was a beautiful moonlight nite and very impressive out in the open under palm trees and a beautiful stage supposed to be one of the best in the Pacific Many of the boys received communion me also. Retired about 2 am with my clothes on because I had no blanket or mattress for my bunk.

Dec 25

Christmas Day

Up at 8 am and had chow grapefruit juice post toasties and small banann~~as~~ about four inches long, had dinner turkey ~~apple-~~ about 1 pm and it was ver good. The Capt Hilterbidle called me in the morning and was suprised to find that that he was public works officer at Newport relieve Com Halloran. Talked over my assignment with him and met Lt Lawerence who married a girl in Newport when he was there. The enlisted men opened their club at 2 pm and free beer (Schlitz) was served with sandwiches until 9 pm and also the red cross gave out a box containing a note book two packages ofncigarettes two bags of candy and come post cards. Retired about ten pm

Dec 26

Up at 7 am had chow pretty good and then had my third typhoid shot at the hospital of the 25TH Cb Battalion.